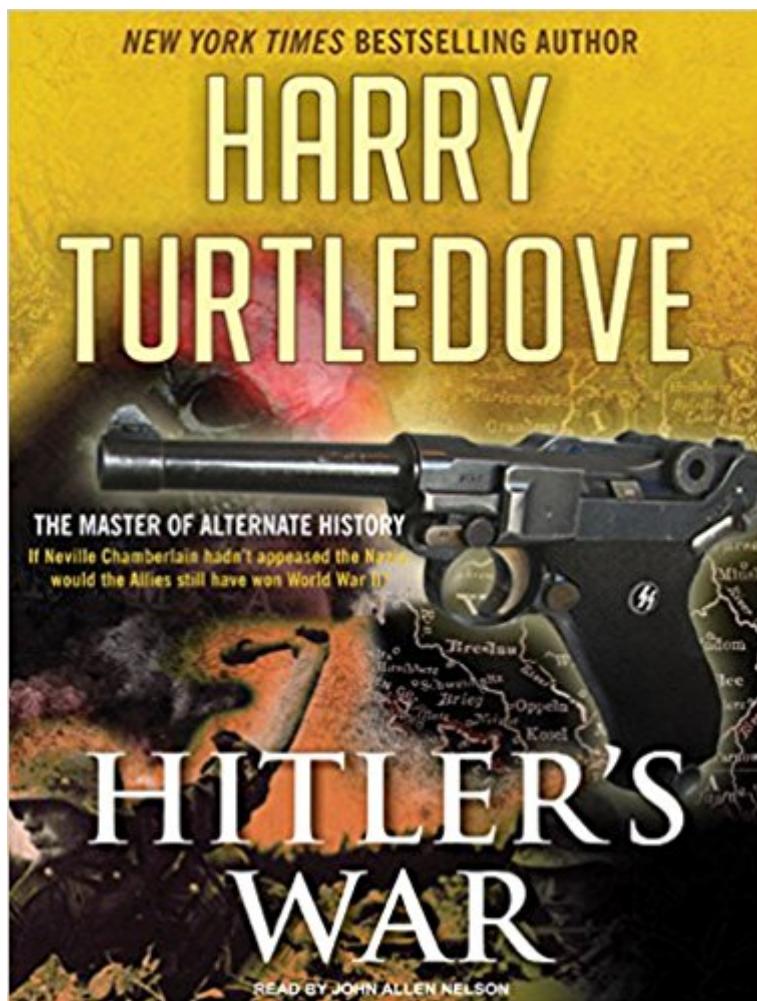


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# Hitler's War (War That Came Early)



## Synopsis

A stroke of the pen and history is changed. In 1938, British prime minister Neville Chamberlain, determined to avoid war at any cost, signed the Munich Accord, ceding part of Czechoslovakia to Hitler. But the following spring, Hitler snatched the rest of that country and pushed beyond its borders. World War II had begun, and England, after a fatal act of appeasement, was fighting a war for which it was not prepared. Now, in this thrilling, provocative, and fascinating alternate history by Harry Turtledove, another scenario is played out: What if Chamberlain had not signed the accord? What if Hitler had acted rashly, before his army was ready-would such impatience have helped him or doomed him faster? Here is an action-packed, blow-by-blow chronicle of the war that might have been-and the repercussions that might have echoed through history-had Hitler reached too far, too soon, and too fast. Turtledove uses dozens of points of view to tell this story: from American marines serving in Japanese-occupied China to members of a Jewish German family with a proud history of war service to their nation, from ragtag volunteers fighting in the Abraham Lincoln Battalion in Spain to an American woman desperately trying to escape Nazi-occupied territory-and witnessing the war from within the belly of the beast. A novel that reveals the human face of war while simultaneously riding the twists and turns that make up the great acts of history, Hitler's War is the beginning of an exciting new alternate history saga. Here is a tale of powerful leaders and ordinary people, of spies, soldiers, and traitors, of the shifting alliances that draw some together while tearing others apart. At once authoritative, brilliantly imaginative, and hugely entertaining, Hitler's War captures the beginning of a very different World War II-with a very different fate for our world today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Alternate historian Turtledove (The Man with the Iron Heart) brings the deprivations of war to life in this vision of a very different WWII. After Konrad Henlein is assassinated in Czechoslovakia in 1938, France and England refuse to condone Hitler's plans for annexation, so he invades instead. American Peggy Druce, caught behind the lines, gets a firsthand look at the period military hardware and nationalistic mindsets that Turtledove so expertly describes, though readers looking for more characterization or plotting may be disappointed. Action in the Spanish Civil War and on the Mongolian border muddy the waters, possibly setting up for a clearer plot in subsequent volumes. Until Turtledove reveals more of the direction this scenario will take, there is little to differentiate it from many of his other novels. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"The author's mastery of the ever-widening ripples that small changes make in history is unchallenged, his storytelling always gripping, and his research impeccable." ---Library Journal

While the book starts with an intriguing premise, the caricature representation of Hitler in the opening scene boded ill for me. This first volume of the inevitable series was the best to read for me, and unfortunately the good professor falls into his bad habits rather quickly - repetitive descriptions of the quality of tobacco, bread and coffee; riotous (mainly Soviet) drinking bouts; endless waiting in trenches and foxholes; carbon-copy bombing missions and tank battles; and frequent voiding of bowels and bladders in combat. Sure, there is good research but also some dreadful howlers about the technology of war. Almost all artillery is described as a 75 or an 88 or a 105 for instance. Tank battles become a hackneyed tussle between superior German training/tactics and superior Allied armour plate/poor training/poor tactics. Some good suggestions have been made by other reviewers on how to improve these: Dated chapter headings and place names at the start of chapters would be a start. A couple of basic maps would be another. Even with a background in history and good knowledge of eastern Europe I was baffled at times by the flow of the action. I can't be too hard on the good professor, I wish he would spend more time on writing fewer volumes. in short, this series could have been wrapped up in three installments. On

more thing irked me: the awful spoilers printed on the cover. For God's sake don't read the cover!

First of all, I like Harry Turtledove and I love alternative history novels! I became a big fan years ago when I "discovered" him when I read the book "How Few Remain" about an alternative history if the South had won the "War Between The States". I read that entire series, and then, a few years later, I read it again! Well, this is a similar book based on what "might have been" if the talks between Chamberlin and Hitler had broken down and Czechoslovakia had not been "given" to Hitler in the infamous concession of the Western European powers to appease Hitler's demands. Instead, the "inevitable" war begins a year or so early with Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia instead of Hitler's invasion of Poland on Sept 1st(?), 1939. This "minor" change in history causes major changes with who invades who and when. This is only the first of several books of this series. If you like alternative history, you will enjoy this book. I did. I would have given it 4 1/2 stars if I could. The only reason that I didn't give it 5 stars is that, at least so far, it just doesn't seem quite as good as his Gold Standard "How Few Remain" (IMO). I may change my mind after reading Book 2 or 3.

I was very disappointed with this book. I am a big fan of Harry Turtledove and I own several of his series. (In some cases there are seven or eight books in a series.) So I was looking forward to starting something new. Instead, I was greeted with this. He always writes from many characters differing view points, which I like. He does the same here. However, in his other series there is a hook. One big idea in which everything revolves around - aliens arriving during WWII, if the South had won the war, a different planet based on a medieval style lifestyle - something that would draw you in. The big idea here is not so big. What if the British and the rest of Europe did not let Hitler get away with his early land grab. Different things happen at different times from the real world history, but the main theme is not developed at all.

Based on the supposition that WWII could have started in 1938 after Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia, the book immediately starts following various characters around their particular corner of the world. This includes the Spanish Civil War, an American woman stuck in Germany, German Luftwaffe and Panzer pilots, French and British soldiers, as well as a few American marines caught in China while the Japanese are on the move. It was a little difficult for me to get hooked on any particular character or storyline as the book jumped to the next story without developing much sense of purpose. But who's to say war doesn't happen that way "anyhow."

This was my first Harry Turtledove novel and I have to admit, I had tough time getting through it. I've been told by several Turtledove fans that this is not his best novel to start off with, but the subject (WWII) usually interests me, so I gave it a shot. I found it difficult a) keeping the multiple characters sorted out and b) getting excited about what was going to happen to them. Towards the end, I started to get a vested interest in what was going to happen some of the characters, but then the book ended! Just not all that impressed. Also, I have to question Turtledove's historic research. I don't know much about Stukas, Panzers or Russian bombers. However, I do know a little bit about German submarines, and he got a number of facts outright wrong (i.e. the liner Athenia was NOT an American ship). This got me started questioning other things, which in the end left a bad taste in my mouth. Kind of glad I got through it, but I'll think twice now about another Turtledove book.

Took me about half the book to catch up with all the character jumps. While I normally enjoy the pov of the people with muddy boots a little more context of the how's and whys would be nice. Don't get that when all of the main characters are focused on staying alive and don't know what the larger picture is anyway. Well written and definitely worth the read regardless.

DO NOT BUY THIS BOOK!!! I purchased it on the strength of the Harry Turtledove books I had read in the past, The World War Series, The Colonization Series, Lee at the Alamo, etc. All these books I thoroughly enjoyed and re-read at least twice. This book is basically unreadable. It makes very little sense, I do not care about the characters and what apparently are supposed to be witty asides by the author are just annoying. If Harry Turtledove wrote this book and also the World at War Series, he did an amazing transformation in his writing skills.

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